

**THE FIRST DAY  
OF THE NEW YEAR  
IN CAPITAL CITY**  
Washington Residents Exhibit  
Spirit Befitting Serious-  
ness of the Times.

**SERVICE STARS ON FLAGS  
FEATURE OF DECORATIONS**  
Absence of Hilarity Conspicuous.  
Programs in Churches—Local Or-  
ganizations Keep Open House.

Quietly and in a spirit befitting the  
seriousness of the times, Washington is  
observing its first New Year day since  
the nation became an actual belligerent  
and combatant in the world war.

Little of the levity that has marked  
New Year observance in the past is to  
be noted anywhere in the city, or, in  
fact, in the length and breadth of the  
land. Rather the spirit of the day is  
one of sober and solemn thoughtfulness,  
tempered with optimism that is an in-  
alienable part of the American nature.

"No time for empty laughter, careless  
extravagance and thoughtless jollification,  
but still less a time for gloom,  
downheartedness and discouragement,"  
might well express what appears to be  
the ruling sentiment.

At most of the clubs of the city open  
house is being kept, and streams of  
visitors are passing through rooms de-  
corated with greenery. The stars and  
stripes and the flags of the allied na-  
tions make up the greater part of the  
decorative scheme everywhere, however,  
and service flags with one or more stars  
are conspicuous everywhere.

At headquarters of the National Women  
Suffrage Association, in Rhode Is-  
land avenue, open house was kept dur-  
ing the day, and thousands of callers  
were received by the score or more of  
hostesses.

**Association of Oldest Inhabitants.**  
The usual New Year day meeting of  
the Oldest Inhabitants' Association in  
the organization's rooms in the old en-  
gine house, at the corner of 19th and H  
streets northwest, was largely attended,  
this being a function that has not been  
omitted since the formation of the as-  
sociation.

At the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A.  
missions to visitors, including many  
strangers in the city, were received. At  
the former's headquarters building, a  
large number of callers were received  
during the afternoon and a swimming  
contest was a feature of the evening  
entertainment.

At the Y. W. C. A. home, 14th and G  
streets, callers were received during the  
day and evening.

At 8 o'clock this evening a concert is  
to be given in the assembly hall of the  
National Y. M. C. A. building, when the  
program to which may be obtained on ap-  
plication at the office.

**Services at Churches and Missions.**  
New Year day services were held at  
practically all of the churches of the  
city at the quarters of the various  
denominations.

At the headquarters of the National  
Y. M. C. A. building, when con-  
taminants representing the different de-  
nominations of the city were received.  
The program for the day was a singing  
contest for a prize of \$10 in war  
savings stamps offered by James Sharp,  
chairman of the boys' work committee,  
and others.

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and others.

**VICTORY PROMISED  
BY LLOYD GEORGE**  
Admonishes British People to  
Practice Economy and Save  
Money to Aid.

**MESSAGE TO MR. WILSON**

By the Associated Press.  
LONDON, January 1.—Premier Lloyd  
George, in his New Year message to the  
nation, appeals to all at home to do their  
utmost for the cause for which the  
democracies of the world are leagued to-  
gether, especially by practicing economy  
and saving money to lend to the govern-  
ment. His message concludes:  
"To every civilian I would say that your  
firing line is at the works or of-  
fice in which you do your bit; the shop  
or kitchen in which you spend or save;  
the bank or post office where you buy  
your war bonds. To reach that firing  
line to become an active combatant  
yourself there are no communication  
trenches to grope along, no barrage to  
face, no horrors, no wounds."  
"The road of duty and patriotism is  
clear before you. Follow it and it will  
lead you long to safety for our own  
people and victory for our cause."

**Messages to All Allies.**

Messages from the British prime min-  
ister have been sent to all the allies  
except Russia, but including Greece.  
All express the good wishes of the  
British war cabinet to the governments  
and peoples addressed. To President  
Wilson, Mr. Lloyd George says:  
"At this season I wish in behalf of  
the British war cabinet to send to your  
people a message of good will. Every day  
we realize more clearly that the hopes  
and more the center of the world's  
triumph of our cause."  
"Every day proves to us that our  
friendship for one another is becoming  
more and more the center of the world's  
triumph of our cause. The league of free  
nations which now stands as the guardian  
of justice and liberty throughout the world."

**Thanks Fighting Arms.**

"We wish in particular to send a  
message of thanks to the United States  
Navy for the great services it has  
rendered in the past year and of greet-  
ing to the young American Army now  
training like its place in the battle  
for human freedom. We are relying  
upon the great addition this army will  
make to strengthen the allies in their  
joint struggle for free civilization, and  
we are confident that when the time of  
battle comes they will win the great  
triumph which they have dedicated  
themselves to."

**IMMEDIATE RELIEF OF  
FREIGHT JAM PROMISED**

**A. H. Smith, Assistant to Director  
General McAdoo, Issues Order  
On Local Conditions.**

Immediate relief of the freight jam  
which has been choking Washington  
yards, and holding many cars outside  
the city waiting for cars in yards to  
be unloaded is promised by an order  
addressed to all eastern railroads by  
Alfred H. Smith, assistant to Director  
General McAdoo.

The order gives railroads power to  
place emergency orders on shipments to  
all consignees who do not unload  
promptly. In addition to this a sharp  
jump in demurrage rates is contem-  
plated by way of further pressure to  
compel consignees to get their ship-  
ments away from the yards.

These two measures, it was believed  
today, will render unnecessary the ap-  
pointment of a freight director for the  
District, as urged while the roads  
were under private control.

**Applies Also to U. S. Contractors.**

Shipments to contractors for govern-  
ment work will be dealt with in the  
same drastic way as those to private  
consignees, it was stated today. If  
these contractors do not get material  
consigned to them unloaded promptly  
they will face a cessation of these ship-  
ments, which it will be thus indicated  
they do not want to operate in the  
city. They will have to deal with the govern-  
ment inspectors supervising their work,  
the waiting of the government trucks  
with government contracts to do  
waste cars and track space by tardy  
unloading.

It is expected that the order relating  
to embargoes on shipments which was  
issued last week will work for a relief  
of congestion in the city, not only in  
Washington, but all over the country.  
A further relief is afforded by the  
waiving of preference rights to  
"blue tag" shipments, which are not  
to be taken care of at the expense of coal,  
food, perishables and essential freight.

**KING FERDINAND OPENS  
RUMANIAN PARLIAMENT**

**In Address Speaks Hopefully of Pros-  
pect of Justice and Liberty  
Among Nations.**

JASSY, Rumania, Friday, December  
28.—The Rumanian parliament was  
opened today with an address by King  
Ferdinand.

**HOME AFFAIRS TO  
OCCUPY CONGRESS**  
One Big Task It Faces Is to  
Release the Resources  
of Nation.

**TAX LAWS OUT OF WAY**

Congress, during the coming year, will  
find itself able to devote more attention  
to purely domestic affairs than in the  
past twelve months, in the view of  
thoughtful men at the Capitol. Utiliza-  
tion of conserved natural resources is  
one branch, for example. To unlock the  
sealed-up resources and apply them to  
use under public control, but private  
direction, will be the object.

Temporary cessation of activities  
along other lines will make this possi-  
ble. It is generally assumed that no  
general further tax legislation will be  
passed at this session. The new tax law  
on the books has yet to be tried out, as  
to efficiency of workability and adequacy  
as a revenue raiser. If more money is  
needed in an emergency, the Secretary  
of the Treasury has authority for  
issuing sale of bonds and Treasury cer-  
tificates.

The "railroad question," to use a com-  
prehensive term, will be out of the  
hands of Congress as soon as the bill is  
passed to make effective the President's  
plan for government control of all the  
roads. Congress, when it reconvenes  
Thursday, will find that in the recess  
the executive has by a stroke of the  
pen foreclosed the necessity for any  
general railway legislation in the near  
future.

**Investigation Fell Flat.**

Ambitious schemes for widespread  
"investigation" of the railroad situation  
—and how dear to its heart has Con-  
gress held inquiry in the past, in-  
quiries into finance, tariff, railroads,  
labor and all that sort of thing, fall  
flat. There is no occasion for further  
railroad inquiry at present. The proof  
of the pudding is to be in the eating  
and the President has set a rare dish  
before the country by his taking the  
direction of the roads under a central  
authority.

The Interstate Commerce Com-  
mission must, for the first time in its  
existence, pass second hand. The sug-  
gestions of the commission in its re-  
ports to Congress are being taken into  
possible government ownership  
nestled quietly in pigeonholes, while  
the Interstate Commerce Commission  
is on trial in effect at the hour.  
The story of the high rank, made pris-  
oner, and seven large guns captured,  
the booty includes sixty machine guns,  
several trench quick fliers and a great  
amount of miscellaneous war material.

But the chief significance of the  
stroke is the change from defensive to  
offensive tactics, and the stirring  
thrust delivered by their initial blow  
French delivered the first blow  
of the enemy lines. Thus far the  
enemy has been on the offensive, with  
the Italians delivering telling defensive  
blows.

Now, however, the French have turned  
the scale, and the enemy is being at-  
tacked in this sector for the first time  
since he reached the Piave. The  
daylight of the fight shows thor-  
oughness of preparations and heroic  
bravery in execution. The scene was  
southeast of Montebelluna, low, snow-  
less mountain just west of the Piave,  
where the allied lines turned into the  
mountain region here. Here, under  
preparations began Saturday, but the  
main bombardment began at noon Sun-  
day and increased hourly until the  
enemy was deluged by the French fire.

It was then that the crack French  
infantry swung forward in steady lines  
from Osteria di Montebelluna and Mar-  
anzine, a front of about two miles.  
The heaviest fighting was in the center,  
where the Italian and British airmen at the  
same time attacked the enemy from the air.

**Enemy Positions Damaged.**  
The struggle was comparatively short  
and sharp, with most of the fighting on  
the right wing. The artillery had so dam-  
aged the enemy positions that he was  
unable to make any effective resistance.  
The French losses were comparatively in-  
significant.

Austrian soldiers made up the entire en-  
emy force engaged, which is taken to in-  
clude that the forward in steady lines  
being moved further west toward the  
Brenta river. It also has been established  
that the enemy is being moved away  
from this front and that no new forces  
are being brought here.

**More Open Cities Bombed.**

ROME, December 31.—The enemy be-  
comes more bitter in the bombardment  
of open cities. Last night his airmen  
dropped bombs on the city of Padua,  
dropping between 3 and 4 p.m. and  
causing considerable damage. Fortunately,  
owing to arrangements by the authori-  
ties, the casualties were only five  
wounded and one killed.

The rich and artistic patrimony of  
the city, instead, suffered severely. The  
facade of the cathedral was blown  
down, and the basilica of the Sante and  
the municipal museum were considerably  
damaged.

"Our machines during the night bom-  
barded effectively the enemy  
aviation camps at Aviano and La  
Comina, which they found lit with  
awaiting the return of their machines.  
In the night seaplane squadrons were  
based, respectively, with excellent re-  
sults enemy aerodromes between Golese  
and S. Fior and enemy encampments in  
the vicinity of Terre di Uosto Livinza.

**New Positions Established.**

"Yesterday in the Monte Tomba sec-  
tor, after the artillery preparation, the  
French troops, with magnificent elan,  
stormed enemy positions between Fon-  
tana and Honfenera and Maranzy.  
Having overcome the stubborn resist-  
ance of the enemy, our valiant allies  
established themselves firmly in the  
positions gained."

"They captured 44 officers and 1,348  
men, 60 machine guns, 7 cannon, sev-  
eral rapid-firing trench guns and a  
large quantity of other war material.  
British and Italian batteries and air-  
men co-operated effectively."



**FRENCH SCORE BIG  
SUCCESS IN ITALY**  
1,343 Prisoners and Many  
Guns Seized in Drive in  
Monte Tomba Region.

**FIGHT SHORT AND SHARP**

By the Associated Press.  
ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN  
NORTHERN ITALY, Monday, Decem-  
ber 31.—The magnitude of the achieve-  
ment of the French troops on the  
Monte Tomba region grows as full de-  
tails are received. In addition to 1,343  
prisoners, including forty-four Austrians  
of high rank, made prisoner, and  
several large guns captured, the  
booty includes sixty machine guns,  
several trench quick fliers and a great  
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large quantity of other war material.  
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men co-operated effectively."

**CONFLAGRATION IN  
NORFOLK IS FEARED;  
GUARDS CALLED OUT**

**Fire Spreads From Monticello  
Hotel, Wrecked Early in Day.  
Incendiarism Suspected.**

**DICKSON BUILDING, ON  
GRANBY STREET, AFLAME**

**Mayor Takes Action to Prevent the  
Spread of Flames—Marines  
Are Summoned.**

NORFOLK, Va., January 1.—Fire  
broke out this afternoon in  
the block on Granby street, oppo-  
site Monticello Hotel. A con-  
flagration looked possible. Three  
buildings already are doomed.  
The mayor ordered out the Home  
Guard and 200 marines have been  
sent from the navy yard to guard  
wharves and other property. Fire  
is thought to be incendiary.

**Home Guard Called Out.**

Fire has crossed the street from  
the Monticello Hotel and has al-  
ready destroyed two big stores.  
The entire block opposite the  
hotel appears doomed.

To protect the water front and  
other property Mayor Mayo this  
afternoon called out the Home  
Guard of Norfolk. There are ap-  
proximately 600 members of the  
two battalions and they will re-  
spond in uniform and with arms.

More than 200 marines have  
been sent from the navy yard at  
the request of Maj. Kizer of the  
police department, and will as-  
sist the local policemen in patrol-  
ling the streets and water front.

It is become so evident that  
the several fires of today were  
of incendiary origin that Maj. Kizer  
has reached the conclusion  
that efforts are being made to di-  
vert attention to the water front  
and from property that is of val-  
ue to the government and it is to  
protect these properties that are being  
taken.

All of the apparatus that could  
be spared from the navy yard  
has been sent over, as has some  
of the apparatus from the Ports-  
mouth fire department.

**Dickson Building Burning.**

The Dickson building seven  
stories, opposite the burning  
block on Granby street, is now  
burning.

**RUMANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES.**

**Reaches America on French Steam-  
ship—Heads Special War Mission.**

AN ATLANTIC PORT, January 1.—  
Dr. Constantin Angelesco, who was re-  
cently appointed minister from Ru-  
mania to the United States, the first  
official representative of his country to  
America, arrived here today on a  
French steamship. Dr. Angelesco is  
also at the head of a special Rumanian  
war mission to this country, the mem-  
bers of which are George G. Danilescu,  
deputy director of the National Bank of  
Rumania; Prof. Mrazek, geologist and  
petroleum specialist; M. Zaharadea,  
head of the Rumanian railway service,  
and Commander Fantau of the navy.

**NOTED HOTEL BURNS  
IN FIRST 1918 FIRES**  
Monticello at Norfolk Wrecked  
by Flames, But Guests  
Escaped Unharm.

**OTHER CITIES VICTIMS**

By the Associated Press.  
NORFOLK, Va., January 1.—Fire  
caused by sparks falling on the roof  
from another fire that had destroyed  
three stories half a block away almost  
completely wrecked the Monticello  
Hotel this morning. All of the upper part  
of the building was swept away, includ-  
ing the magnificent dining room on the  
fifth floor, and the lower floors were  
badly damaged by water.

More than 250 guests in the hotel at  
the time the fire broke out. All escaped  
uninjured.

The rooms of the board of trade,  
the Y. M. C. A. and many private homes  
have been thrown open to the guests  
who are without shelter, and it is be-  
lieved that all will be provided for.

The fire was discovered this morning  
about 7 o'clock in the roof of the  
kitchen on the sixth floor. The alarm  
was given and all of the apparatus in  
the city responded. In the intense cold  
the firemen found all of the hydrants  
frozen and it was necessary to build  
flames about these plugs to thaw them  
out. After the hydrants were opened  
the fire was quickly brought under con-  
trol and the flames were quickly  
brought to the top floor.

**U. S. Boys Aid Firemen.**

Enlisted men, both sailors and sol-  
diers, assisted the firemen in fighting  
the flames, which quickly spread from  
one end of the building to the other.  
When the roof of the kitchen fell in it  
caused a great deal of damage to the  
building and was a very serious in-  
jury.

The fire was the result, it is believed,  
of another fire that started at 4 o'clock  
and destroyed three stories on Granby  
street, about half a block from the  
Monticello. It is thought that a spark  
from the fire on Granby street fell on  
the roof of the kitchen, and started the  
blaze was first seen. The flames soon  
spread to the dining room and the  
drawing room, and the fire was quickly  
brought under control.

**Fall Asleep Watching Fire.**  
Many of the guests of the hotel had  
fallen asleep after watching the fire  
for an hour and a half when they  
were aroused by the alarm that the  
building was on fire.

The Monticello Hotel was one of the  
best known hotels in the entire south-  
east. It was built in 1898 for \$1,000,000.  
It was the largest hotel in the south-  
east and was one of the most famous  
hotels in the country. It was built  
by the late John D. Rockefeller and  
was one of the most famous hotels in  
the world.

**Fire In Toledo.**  
TOLEDO, Ohio, January 1.—Fire in a  
two-story apartment house here early  
this morning did damage to the extent  
of \$125,000 to the building and occu-  
pied by the Toledo Trust Co. The  
building was occupied by Phillips &  
Richter, wholesale jewelers; Sarrazin  
& Sauer, manufacturing jewelers, and the  
natural gas supply company. Several  
large business houses in the vicinity  
were threatened.

**CINCINNATI Building Ablaze.**  
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**BOLSHEVKS BEATEN  
IN GREAT BATTLE**  
Cossacks, Who Co-Operate  
With Ukrainians, Are in Hot  
Pursuit of Radical Forces.

**ALLIES MAY STATE AIMS**

By the Associated Press.  
STOCKHOLM, December 31.—Ukrain-  
ian and Cossack forces, in a great battle  
on the southwestern front, have defeated  
bolshevik troops, taking four hundred  
prisoners and capturing eight big guns  
and 328 machine guns, according to a  
dispatch received by the Dagens Ny-  
heter, from Petrograd by way of Nap-  
randa. The Cossacks are in hot pur-  
suit of the bolsheviks.

**Allies Exchanging Views.**

LONDON, January 1.—The British  
government recognizes that the Best-  
Litovsk peace proposals constitute a  
grave and a new fact of which official  
cognizance must be taken, says the  
Daily Chronicle in reporting, as did  
the Manchester Guardian yesterday,  
that the British government intends to  
return a serious and reasonable reply  
to the Austro-German peace terms  
when presented officially. The Chronicle  
adds that the United States, Great  
Britain, France and Italy already are  
exchanging views concerning the peace  
proposals. The reported visit of Pre-  
mier Lloyd George to Premier Clem-  
enceau in Petrograd is an intelligent an-  
ticipation which may or may not be  
realized.

**Sees Enslavement of Russia.**

The Petrograd correspondent of the  
Daily News wonders whether the danger  
of a separate peace is realized in England.  
He says it would be a defeat for German  
democracy in addition to insuring the  
virtual enslavement of Russia, as it  
would be a victory for the military  
state in Germany.  
"It may mean," he adds, "much more  
than Russia's neutrality. If we make  
no move toward peace, the possibility  
of the Germans will ask the Russians to  
help them in enforcing Russian peace terms  
on the entire alliance. Trotsky is well  
placed in the danger, though faced  
with the necessity of concluding peace,  
and is doing his utmost to stimulate  
the Russian people to resist. The  
fraternalization at the front already has passed beyond  
control of enemy officers and enormous  
quantities of revolutionary newspapers  
printed in German are being dis-  
tributed."

**Would Publish Terms.**

"I am convinced our only chance in  
defeating German designs is to publish  
terms as near the Russian terms as  
possible and by taking a powerful stand  
in the proposed conference, help the  
democratic movement in Germany while  
helping the Russians to force the Ger-  
mans to accept the Russian terms. The  
German peace proposals are a threat  
to the Russian revolution. It is our  
duty to take a powerful stand against  
them."

**Further Leaving of Ministry.**

The writer foresees a further leav-  
ing of the ministry by the Russian gov-  
ernment. The Petrograd correspondent of  
the Times, who is in London, con-  
tinues his anti-bolshevik statements to-  
day. He says it is not unlikely that  
the Germans will use the Russian revo-  
lution to their advantage. They expect  
from the Russian revolution, will suffer  
a grievous disappointment provided the  
Russian revolution is not a success. He  
implies that the Russian people will not  
continue to subordinate the Russian  
revolution to the German revolution. If a  
closer union is established between Russia  
and the entire allies.

**Germans to Raise Blockade.**

The German naval delegation at  
Petrograd, according to the correspond-  
ent of the Times, who is in London, con-  
tinues his anti-bolshevik statements to-  
day. He says it is not unlikely that  
the Germans will use the Russian revo-  
lution to their advantage. They expect  
from the Russian revolution, will suffer  
a grievous disappointment provided the  
Russian revolution is not a success. He  
implies that the Russian people will not  
continue to subordinate the Russian  
revolution to the German revolution. If a  
closer union is established between Russia  
and the entire allies.